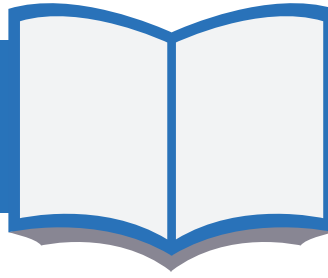


Participant Handouts

Scenarios



Scenario 1 Worksheet: Demonstration

My doctor says that my struggles with mental health might qualify as a disability. Somedays it can be hard to get out of bed, and it's been a struggle to do anything productive. I am not receiving Ontario Works (OW) or any other financial support from the government, but obviously, this makes it hard for me to work. She said the government will help me with my bills because of my health issues through a program called ODSP. How would I start an application for that?

Start on the Steps to Justice topic, "Ontario Disability Support Program" with the question, "How do I start an ODSP application?"

- What are the two main requirements in order to qualify for ODSP?
- I'm not on OW. Is there any difference between applying for ODSP because of this?
- I'm ready to see if I financially qualify for ODSP. How do I start?
- What will I need to fill out my application with the ODSP? Is it just me that needs to go the appointment?
- How long will it take for me to find out if I qualify? I need the money as soon as possible.



Scenario 2 Worksheet

It's just been my dad and I for as long as I can remember. He's always been working to support me so I haven't had to worry about money. He just passed away and I don't know what to do. I don't think he had much savings. How am I supposed to survive without money now?

Start on the Steps to Justice topic, "Canada Pension Plan (CPP)" with the question, "Can I get CPP money for a family member who died?"

- What are CPP contributions?
- How do I know how much I'll get?
- He passed away about 3 months ago, and I've survived off his savings until now. Am I running out of time to apply?
- How do I know if I qualify to receive these benefits?
- My dad also made me in charge of his funeral and stuff in case something ever happened to him. That's going to cost even more money that I can't really afford. Can CPP help me with this cost?



Scenario 3 Worksheet

I just lost my job. I'm trying to find work right now but it's tough to find anyone willing to give me a chance because I didn't finish high school. I have a young child to care for and my bills are coming due soon. Is there any way that I can get financial support for the time being, just to help me get on my feet?

Start on the Steps to Justice topic, "Ontario Works" with the question, "I need money to live. Can I get help from Ontario Works?"

- Am I eligible for Ontario Works?
- What will OW look at to make sure I financially qualify for income assistance?
- Will OW account for my child and their needs?
- My partner and I are thinking of moving in together too. They also have a child to take care of. Will that matter for my OW application?
- What kind of information will I need to give OW?



Scenario 4 Worksheet

I just turned 17 and I live alone. I can't live with my parents because of our rocky history. My dad could get really angry and violent at times, and my mom was no help. I've just gone out on my own and the money I saved from before is quickly running out. Would I be able to get welfare payments from Ontario Works even though I'm under 18?

Start on the Steps to Justice topic, "Ontario Works" with the question, "I'm under 18 and don't live with my parents. Can I get OW?"

- What are some situations that would show that I'm 'on my own' and can't live with my parents?
- Will OW call my parents? I really don't want them to because my dad might get angry and try to come find me.
- The only adult I can think of that can confirm the abuse is my teacher, but they're away on vacation for the next week and I'm running out of time. Can I get money even though no one's confirmed the abuse yet?
- Would I get the money directly from OW? If not me, then who?
- OW told me they wanted me to go to counselling with my parents, but I'm scared of what my dad will do if he sees me again. I said I didn't want to go to the counselling and now they won't give me my welfare payments. What should I do?



Scenario 5 Worksheet

I am pregnant and to be honest, I'm a bit scared about how I'm going to pay for everything after I have the baby. I don't have anyone else I can really rely on, and I'm not sure how I'll be able to work and take care of the baby full-time. The government should have something to help me right?

Start on the Steps to Justice topic, "Child Tax Benefits" with the question, "I have kids. Can I get child tax benefits?"

- Who is eligible for the Canada Child Benefit?
- What do you do if you have shared custody of your child vs. sole custody?
- How do I know how much money I can get?
- This is confusing, should I even apply? I doubt I'm eligible.
- Is this the only benefit I can get? Are there other programs to help me?